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One of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the above examples are provided for descriptive purposes and different embodiments may be implemented in various different ways without departing from the spirit of the invention.

FIG. 9 illustrates a flow chart of a conceptual process 900 used by some embodiments to place roof rod 100. Such a process may begin, for instance, after an ice dam is formed. Alternatively, such rods may be placed prior to ice or snow accumulation as a preventive measure.

As shown, the process may provide (at 910) an ice melt roof rod. As described above, the rod may be provided in various different shapes, sizes, etc., as appropriate for any particular application. Next, the process may determine (at 920) whether a placement receptacle (or placement feature) is available and/or whether the receptacle will be used. Such a determination may be made based on various relevant factors (e.g., user preference, type of rod, etc.).

If the process determines (at 920) that no placement receptacle will be used, the process may propel or place (at 930) the rod into the desired location and then may end. For instance, a user may throw a rod into place or drop or otherwise place a rod on a surface using a ladder or other appropriate access.

If the process determines (at 920) that a placement receptacle may be used, the process may then attach (at 940) the placement element (or placement tool) to the rod. As described above, such a placement tool may be a pole with a protruding hook or nail that is able to engage the placement receptacle. The process may then position (at 950) the rod (e.g., by lifting the rod into place using the placement tool), detach (at 960) the placement tool from the rod (e.g., by twisting or otherwise manipulating the tool), and then may end.

One of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that process 900 may be performed in various different ways without departing from the spirit of the disclosure. For instance, the operations may be performed in a different order than shown. As another example, additional operations may be included or some listed operations may be omitted. In some embodiments, the process (or portions thereof) may be performed iteratively. The process may be performed as part of a larger macro process or divided into multiple sub-processes.

FIG. 10 illustrates side elevation views of roof rod deployment using a placement tool 1000 of some embodiments. Such a tool may include a pole or similar element, a hook, nail, or key, and/or other appropriate elements (e.g., hand grips, release trigger, etc.).

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In a first example view 1020, a user 1010 has attached a roof rod 100 to the pole by threading a protruding element through the receptacle 200 and/or otherwise engaging the rod 100 with the tool 1000.

In a second example view 1030, the user 1010 manipulates the tool 1000 to position the rod 100 at the desired location along the ice dam 710. If the rod 100 includes textures such as scales 600, the rod 100 may move freely up the slope of the roof as the user 1010 positions the rod.

In a third example view 1040, the user 1010 manipulates the tool 1000 to release the rod 100 at the desired location. If the rod includes textures such as scales 600, the rod 100 may grip the surface of the ice dam 710 and be prevented from sliding down the slope of the roof. In such cases, the user 1010 may move the tool 1000 down and away from the rod 100 as indicated.

Alternatively, if no texture is included, the user 1010 may tilt the tool 1000 such that the rod 100 drops into place. Different tools 1000 may include different release features, as appropriate.

The foregoing relates to illustrative details of exemplary embodiments and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure as defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. An ice melting and clearing rod comprising:
 - an ice melting chemical compound comprising at least one of calcium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, amide, and glycol, the ice melting chemical compound forming a substantially cylindrical member, the substantially cylindrical member comprising:
 - an outer surface of the cylindrical member comprising:
 - a plurality of grooves that run along a length of the cylindrical member, the plurality of grooves being evenly spaced about a circumference of the cylindrical member; and
 - a textured surface along at least a portion of the outer surface, the textured surface providing resistance in one direction along the length of the cylindrical member; and
 - a set of through-holes adapted for use as placement features, wherein each through-hole in the set of through-holes is perpendicular to the length of the cylindrical member, wherein:
 - the ice melting and clearing rod is adapted for use on a sloped roof,
 - the outer surface is formed by the ice melting chemical compound, and
 - a shape of the substantially cylindrical member is retained without any external container.

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